

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFYING RUNAWAY SOFTWARE AGENTS  
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system for identifying runaway software agents operating in a  
5 computer system is disclosed. An operating window is defined for an agent. The  
operating window specifies the maximum desired operating time for the agent. When an  
agent begins operation, its start time is recorded. At a later time, a measurement is made  
comparing the start time and current measurement time to the operating window. If the  
comparison indicates that the agent has exceeded the operating window, the agent is  
10 identified as a runaway agent. The computer system processes data associated with the  
runaway agent and displays it to a user interface such as a monitor.